GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2715
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2017
Agricultural Profession
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the farmers' remuneration from agriculture profession is below the wages of sweeper working in the Government sectors across the country including Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the process through which the Government segregate the poor small, medium and marginal farmers from the rich and big landlords;

(d) whether agriculture is becoming unprofitable for small and marginal farmers due to huge input cost and climate risk on crops and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to reduce the cost of farming and to make agriculture a profitable profession in the country along with the achievements thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) to (e): The remuneration from agriculture profession and wages of sweeper in the government sector are not comparable as the nature of work involved in the two sectors is totally different.

Agricultural land is a state subject. However, as per the Agriculture Census conducted after every five years, the criteria used for classifying different size groups of operational holdings is as follows:

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Size Groups Criteria
Marginal Below 1.00 hectare
Small 1.00-2.00 hectare
Semi-Medium 2.00-4.00 hectare
Medium 4.00-10.00 hectare
Large Above 10.00 hectare

The frequent climatic variations and increase in input cost adversely impact the profitability of farming, including for small and marginal farmers. With a view improve the economic condition of farmers and for doubling farmers income, Government has taken several measures for increasing farm production and productivity. These include, inter-alia, implementation of schemes like, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Soil Health Card, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Neem Coated Urea, creation of a unified national agriculture market (e-NAM), etc. Moreover, the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of major agricultural commodities has been progressively increased to ensure remunerative price to the farmers.

Government has also undertaken various skill development initiatives, agricultural extension and training programmes to increase employability and productivity of agricultural workers.

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